

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of this amendment, Claims 1-12 and 14-28 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 20-21, 25, 27 are amended, and Claim 13 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2, 5, and 12-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,340) in view Mori (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,453) and Yasunobu (U.S. Patent No. 7,046,394); Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo, Mori and Yasunobu in further view of Grosse (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,294, hereafter “Grosse”); and Claims 3-4, 6-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo, Mori and Yasunobu in further view of O’Hara (U.S. Patent No. 7,072,060).

In reply to the rejection of Claims 1-2, 5 and 12-28 as being unpatentable over Endo, Mori and Yasunobu, Claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, an electronic device which receives and image data across a data communications bus shared among a memory, a processing unit, and the electronic device, and converts the image data for outputting therefrom, the electronic device including:

a control unit configured to control said conversion units, and configured to output and receive the image data to/from the data communication bus, *the control unit including a plurality of registers configured to store a conversion passcode, the control unit selecting one or more of the conversion units in accordance with the passcode stored in the plurality of registers...*(Emphasis added.)

Turning to the primary reference, Endo describes a data communications apparatus and associated methodology for document transmission by various transmission methods, such as electronic mail, facsimile, remote printing and file transfer. Specifically, Endo

illustrates that the apparatus includes a CPU (201) a RAM memory (203), a scanner (210), a hard disk (205) and a floppy disk (204).¹

Operationally, Endo describes that a destination list generator (300) generates a transmission destination list by copying items from designated destinations in an address book (301), which includes a transmission method (402) and document format (403) for each of the described destinations.² Endo also describes that a document transmission controller (302) instructs the format converter (308) on a format conversion for each group of destinations having a common format.³

However, Endo does not describe that the document transmission controller (302) includes a plurality of registers configured to store a passcode, much less that the document transmission controller (302) instructs the format converter (308) based on the passcode. Instead, Endo merely describes that the document transmission controller (302) determines whether or not the data transmission format corresponding to the document data is designated by the destination address, and defaults to a specified transmission format contained in the default transmission format information database (304) when none is found.⁴ However, Endo is silent regarding the constructions of the transmission controller (302) and/or the default data transmission format information database (304), and does not describe any registers associated therewith. Further, Endo does not describe generating a passcode, much less the transmission controller (302) selects a format based on the passcode. Conversely, amended Claim 1 recites that the control unit includes a plurality of registers configured to store a conversion passcode, and that the control unit selects one or more conversion units in accordance with the passcode. Accordingly, Endo fails to disclose the claimed registers, and neither Mori nor Yasunobu cure this deficiency. As such, no combination of Endo, Mori and

¹ Endo at column 3, lines 28-45; see also Figure 2.

² Endo at column 4, lines 29-50.

³ Endo at column 5, lines 30-35.

⁴ Endo at column 6, lines 18-29.

Yasunobu describes every feature recited in amended Claim 1, and amended Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, together with its corresponding dependent claims.

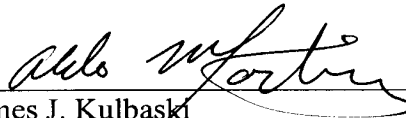
Moreover, amended Claims 20, 25 and 27 recite features substantially similar to those recited in amended Claim 1 and are thus believed to be in condition for allowance, together with any claim depending therefrom, for substantially similar reasons. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-2, 5 and 12-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

As all other rejections of record rely upon Endo for describing the above-distinguished features, and the above-distinguished features are not disclosed or suggested by Endo alone or in combination with any other art of record, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 3-4, 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-12 and 14-28 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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